

REMARKS

Claims 25-44 are pending in the application. Claims 25-40 and 44 stand rejected. Claims 41-43 are objected to. Please cancel claims 40 and 41, without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claims 45-50. Claims 25-39 and 42-50 are pending after amendment.

I. The Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 25-39, 42-44, and 50

Claim 25 has been amended to include the features of claims 40 and 41, with some modifications. For example, amended claim 25 does not include an airlock, and amended claim 25 does not recite that the chamber is a chamber for a wafer manufacturing process. The term "positioning means" has been deleted and replaced with "positioner," so that 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 6 is not invoked. Additionally, the wafer is not included in claim 25. Other modifications to the previous claim language have been made. Claim 25 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 26-39, 42-44, and 50 depend from claim 25, and are therefore in condition for allowance as well.

II. New Claims 45-50

New claims 45-50 have been added. New claims 45-50 are supported in the specification; see (for example, pages 7 and 8 and Figures 4 and 5). Therefore, no new matter is added.

Claim 45 includes the feature "a sensor positioning system configured to position one or more sensors including a first sensor relative to the substrate, the sensor positioning system comprising a positioning arm," and is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 46-49 depend from claim 45, and are therefore in condition for allowance as well.

CONCLUSION

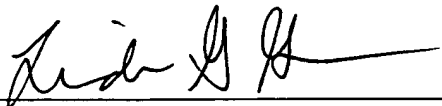
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue, or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Claims 25-39 and 42-50 are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this response, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (858) 678-4311.

Enclosed is a check for \$120.00 for the one month extension fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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